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PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

—OF—

Free and Accepted Masons of British Columbia, B. S.

Pursuant to Notification, the Representatives of the different Lodges in the jurisdiction assembled at the Masonic Hall, in the City of Victoria, Vancouver Island, B. C., on Tuesday, the 24th day of December, A. D., 1867.

PRESENT,

The Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master J. W. POWELL, Esq., M. D. in the Chair.
W. Bro. N. I. NEUSTADT, Acting D. P. G. M. W. Bro. A. G. RICHARDSON, Acting P. G. Secretary
" " E. C. HOLDEN, Acting P. G. S. W. " " Rev. THOS. SOMERVILLE, P. G. Chaplain.
" " M. W. WAITT, Acting P. G. J. W. " " R. H. ADAMS, P. G. S. Deacon.
" " A. C. CAMPBELL, Acting P. G. Treasurer " " J. E. HUNT, P. G. J. Deacon.
Bro. P. J. HALL, Acting P. G. Tyler.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was then opened in due form with solemn prayer. The Provincial Grand Master then exhibited his commission, by virtue of which he had called them together. He expressed his regret that some more competent brother had not been selected to fill the high and distinguished position which had been conferred upon him; but relied upon the kind and fraternal assistance of his brethren to aid him in the proper fulfillment of all his duties. He congratulated the Brethren of the Order upon the establishment of a Provincial Grand Lodge, and regarded it as the harbinger of the future prosperity and extension of our Ancient and Honorable Order in this Colony. The great distance of Scotland, the uncertainty of mail communication causing often tedious delays in correspondence; had all contributed in completing the isolation of Scottish Freemasons in British Columbia, and preventing the extension of our grand jurisdiction in this Colony. The establishment of a Provincial Grand Lodge would happily put an end to all of these serious obstructions to our growth and success and place us in comparatively an independent position. He announced that already he had granted two dispensations by virtue of the commission which he had the honor of holding. First, a dispensation to Cariboo Lodge—evidence of the enrollment of which as No. 469 upon books of our Grand Lodge, had been sent him by the R. W. the Grand Secretary; but unfortunately the Charter had not come to hand, and as the Brethren of that locality would experience serious inconvenience from a further delay of five or six months, he had granted the R. W. Master and Officers a working letter, pending the arrival of the Charter, and was now happy to announce to brethren and representatives of that flourishing lodge here present, that the missing Charter had at last arrived and had been duly forwarded to its proper destination. The other was a dispensation to a number of Brethren at Nanaimo who had petitioned to Grand Lodge for a Charter of Erection as Caledonia Lodge, and at the same time had placed in his hands their prayer for authority to work, pending the arrival of a Charter. As their petition had the cordial endorsement and recommendation of the Lodge at present existing at Nanaimo, he had granted them his power to work as Lodge Caledonia, (under dispensation) pending its confirmation by our Grand Lodge, and he hoped ere long to announce its regular enrollment as a duly chartered and prosperous Lodge of this jurisdiction. The Provincial Grand Master then alluded to the erection of his Provincial Grand Lodge, and expressed his great regret and disappointment in being unable to welcome the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of Washington Territory, the Grand Secretary of which had intimated their intention of responding to his invitation and being present to conduct the installation of Grand Officers. The unfortunate irregularity of steam communication between this city and the adjoining territory at this particular time had prevented the anticipated pleasure, and he would therefore proceed to the appointment and installation of Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge for the ensuing year.

The following Brethren were then appointed, invested and proclaimed Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year, viz :

R. W. NORTON I. NEUSTADT, Provincial Deputy Grand Master.
W. R. H. ADAMS, Provincial Senior Grand Warden.
" JOHN E. HUNT, Provincial Junior Grand Warden.
" J. ROBERTSON STEWART, Provincial Grand Treasurer.
" A. G. RICHARDSON, Provincial Grand Secretary.
" Rev. THOS. SOMERVILLE, Provincial Grand Chaplain.
" A. C. CAMPBELL, Provincial Senior Grand Deacon.
" E. C. HOLDEN, Provincial Junior Grand Deacon.
" H. B. W. AIKMAN, Provincial Grand Sword Bearer.
" PHILIP J. HALL, Provincial Grand Tyler.

The R. W. Provincial Grand Master then concluded the ceremony of installation in the usual manner and proclaimed to the Brethren that the Provincial Grand Lodge of British Columbia was now duly instituted.

The several Brethren invested as Grand Officers then returned thanks to the Provincial Grand Master for the honor conferred by appointing them to the first Provincial Grand Lodge of British Columbia, and assured him of their cordial assistance and co-operation in forwarding the interests of the Grand Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Master then announced his intention of paying his first official visit to Vancouver Lodge, No. 421, on St. John's Day the 27th inst., and installing the officers elect of that Lodge, and requested the assistance and attendance of his officers for that purpose.

No further business offering, the Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed in due form with solemn prayer.

A. G. RICHARDSON,
Provincial Grand Secretary.

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